

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 1, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus comprising:
 - a sensor adapted to detect chromaticity of a patch to be formed on a transferring medium;
 - a correcting unit that performs shading correction of an output from said sensor;
 - an adjusting unit that adjusts the color image forming conditions based on a corrected output from said correcting unit when said sensor detects a patch for adjustment of color image forming conditions to be formed on a transferring medium material; and
 - a calculating unit that calculates a shading correction value of said correcting unit based on a detected value when said sensor detects a patch for calculation of the shading correction value.
2. (Previously Presented) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the patch for calculation of the shading correction value is a black toner patch whose optical density is equal to or more than one.
3. (Original) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sensor is a sensor comprised of a light source having an emission spectrum ranging over overall visible light, and at least three sets of pixels provided with respective filters having

respective spectral characteristics, and said calculating unit obtains such correction coefficients that outputs from said respective pixels of said sensor can satisfy a predetermined output ratio calculated from the emission spectrum of said light source, spectral sensitivity of said sensor, spectral transmissivities of said respective filters, and spectral reflectivity of toner.

4. (Original) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sensor is a sensor comprised of a light source having an emission spectrum ranging over overall visible light, spectrum-obtaining means, and a plurality of pixels for receiving spectral light obtained by said spectrum-obtaining means, and said calculating unit obtains such correction coefficients that outputs from said respective pixels of said sensor can satisfy a predetermined output ratio calculated from the emission spectrum of said light source, spectral sensitivity of said sensor, spectral reflectivity of toner, and wavelength ranges of light incident on said respective pixels, and corrects the output of said sensor using the correction coefficients during operation for detecting color tint of an image formed on the transferring medium.

5. (Original) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sensor is a sensor comprised of at least three light sources having respective different emission spectra, and a pixel or at least two pixels having equal spectral sensitivity, and said calculating unit obtains such individual correction coefficients that outputs from said respective pixels of said sensor corresponding to said respective light sources can satisfy a predetermined output ratio calculated from the emission spectra of said light sources, spectral sensitivity of said sensor, and spectral reflectivity of toner.

6. (Original) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sensor is a sensor whose amplification factor during operation for converting incident light into a voltage is variable, or a sensor in which a voltage obtained by conversion from incident light is amplified by an amplifier with a variable amplification factor, and the amplification factor is set to a relatively large value during operation for obtaining shading correction information of said sensor, and is set to a relatively small value during operation for detecting color tint of an image formed on the transferring material.

7. (Original) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sensor is a charge storage sensor which reads charge generated by incident light after charge storage for a predetermined time, and storage time is set to a relatively long time during operation for shading correction of said sensor, and is set to a relatively short time during operation for detecting color tint of an image formed on the transferring material.

8. (Previously Presented) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of image forming portions that form images of different colors; and
a transferring portion that transfers the images formed by said image forming portions to the transferring material to form a color image on the transferring material

9. (Previously Presented) A shading correction method for a sensor for detecting chromaticity of a patch to be formed on a transferring medium by a color image forming apparatus, said shading correction method comprising:

a first detecting step of detecting, by the sensor, a patch for calculation of a shading correction value to be formed on a transferring medium by the color image forming apparatus;

a calculating step of calculating the shading correction value of a correcting unit based on a detected output obtained in said first detecting step;

a second detecting step of detecting, by the sensor, a patch for adjustment of color image forming conditions;

a correcting step of correcting an output of the sensor obtained in said second detecting step based on the shading correction value; and

an adjusting step of adjusting the color image forming conditions based on a corrected output obtained in said correcting step.